

Michaud: We Must Join Together to Build America's Infrastructure

Wednesday, February 09 2011

Leads letter signed by 52 members of Congress calling for a focus on job growth and economic expansion

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Mike Michaud, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, sent a letter signed by 52 of his colleagues to House leadership supporting infrastructure investments and calling for movement on a bipartisan highway reauthorization that fully funds the nation's transportation priorities. Michaud's call echoes a joint statement recently issued by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO that demonstrates the broad spectrum of support for investments in transportation and infrastructure.

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WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Mike Michaud, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, sent a letter signed by 52 of his colleagues to House leadership supporting infrastructure investments and calling for movement on a bipartisan highway reauthorization that fully funds the nation's transportation priorities. Michaud's call echoes a joint statement recently issued by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO that demonstrates the broad spectrum of support for investments in transportation and infrastructure.

"We must join together to build America's infrastructure," said Michaud. "There is no doubt that we must address our budget deficit and I support spending cuts. But investments in our transportation system put Americans to work and give our businesses the infrastructure they need to grow and stay competitive. Simply put, cutting these investments will hurt our economic recovery, potentially making our deficit forecasts even worse."

Currently, states are operating under short-term extensions of federal highway programs, causing them to delay important, long-term infrastructure initiatives. Passing a multi-year reauthorization of highway programs would allow states to better plan ahead and initiate much-needed transportation and infrastructure improvements.

The full text of the letter that was sent today can be found below.

February 9, 2011

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

In light of recent announcements that the House will soon consider proposals to cut federal spending across the board, we ask you to consider excluding transportation funding from those cuts. In addition, we request that you quickly bring to the floor bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the surface transportation programs. Both actions are crucial to ensuring our long-term economic recovery, improving global competitiveness, and creating the certainty that states and businesses need to carry out long-term transportation projects cost effectively.

Investment in our national transportation and infrastructure programs indisputably creates jobs. It is also a cost-effective use of tax payer dollars. Every \$1 billion invested in transportation infrastructure creates about 35,000 jobs and adds up to \$6 billion to our gross domestic product. These programs put Americans to work almost immediately in communities throughout the country, and they give U.S. businesses the infrastructure they need to grow and stay competitive. Simply put, cutting transportation and infrastructure funding will hurt our economic recovery.

Enacting a multi-year surface transportation authorization that provides the funding necessary to meet our transportation priorities is critical. It provides individual states the certainty necessary to plan and execute long-term projects. Unfortunately, it has been more than a year since the previous surface transportation authorization expired and, as a result, states have been forced to rely on a series of short extensions. This piecemeal approach delays major transportation and infrastructure investments, needlessly hurting our economy when we should be doing everything that we can to get it going again.

As we continue to look for ways to support our ailing economy, we believe it would be short-sighted to reduce funding for the transportation programs that are proven job creators. We sincerely hope that you will work with us to provide short-term stability for transportation investments by preserving current transportation funding levels and long-term stability by supporting a fully funded multi-year surface transportation authorization.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Michaud

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

Keith Ellison

Earl Blumenauer

Laura Richardson

Chaka Fattah

Donna F. Edwards

Mazie Hirono

John Conyers

Bob Filner

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Mark S. Critz

Barbara Lee

Gwen Moore

Brian Higgins

Betty Sutton

Gerald E. Connolly

Peter Welch

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

Dennis J. Kucinich

James P. Moran

Tim Holden

John A. Yarmuth

Al Green

Raúl M. Grijalva

Mike Quigley

Dale E. Kildee

Jerrold Nadler

Colleen Hanabusa

Carolyn B. Maloney

Albio Sires

Terri A. Sewell

Elijah E. Cummings

Emanuel Cleaver

Maurice Hinchey

Yvette D. Clarke

Grace F. Napolitano

Robert A. Brady

Rick Larsen

Chellie Pingree

Janice D. Schakowsky

Paul Tonko

Michael F. Doyle

Carolyn McCarthy

Mike Thompson

Bobby Scott

David N. Cicilline

Lynn C. Woolsey

Sheila Jackson Lee

Melvin L. Watt

Jim Costa

Daniel Lipinski

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